



## FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927  
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118



*For Immediate Release*

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## Park Visitors Asked to Help Collect Native Plant Seeds

The rules say you can't take anything from local parks. No sticks or stones or plants or wildlife of any kind is to be removed from parkland. However, once a year, the Park Authority sets aside those regulations in order to collect native tree seeds that would otherwise be lost. Seeds will be collected until November.

The Fairfax County Park Authority has partnered with the Potomac Conservancy, Fairfax Releaf and the Virginia Department of Forestry for several years in promoting the collection of native tree seeds, such as acorns and walnuts, for the state nursery to be used for propagation and eventual replanting back into the watershed.

The exception is easy to make since these nuts are for future parkland and not private benefit. These nuts are to be collected from surfaces which would not support germination and tree growth such as parking lots, tennis courts, basketball courts and athletic fields. Collectors must drop off what they collect at the following collection centers:

- Wakefield Park at Audrey Moore RECenter – 8100 Braddock Road in Annandale
- Lake Accotink Park – 7500 Accotink Park Road in Springfield
- Hidden Oaks Nature Center – 7701 Royce Street in Annandale
- The Herrity Building – 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax – 9<sup>th</sup> floor
- Cub Run RECenter – 4630 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly

But we don't want just any old seed -- park visitors are encouraged to visit [www.potomac.org/growingnative/index.html](http://www.potomac.org/growingnative/index.html) first in order to learn to identify which tree their seeds come from and how to responsibly collect seeds. The object is to find seeds that would just go to waste while avoiding a reduction in wildlife food or stopping plants from germinating in appropriate locations on parkland.

For more information about this program please contact Meghan Fellows, Natural Resource Specialist at 703-324-8586.

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